

I Claim:

1. A control device for monitoring wear parts for a printer or copiers comprising a counter device connected to the printer or copier so as to count a number of sheets printed by the printer or copier;

5 a memory device for storing initial values and thresholds for individual wear parts of the printer or copier;

said counter device starting to count the number of the sheets printed at the initial values and counting in a direction toward the thresholds;

an alarm device connected to compare a number of printed sheets to the thresholds and

10 operable to output an alarm signal when a predefined threshold is exceeded; and

said control device being fashioned with a setting function for individual setting of at least one of the initial values and the thresholds for the individual wear parts.

2. A control device according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 a separate setting device that is connectable to said control device to enable said setting function, said setting function being enabled only with said separate setting device.

3. A control device according to claim 2, wherein said setting function can only be called with an authorization code.

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4. A control device according to claim 1, wherein said setting function can only be called with an authorization code.

5. A control device according to claim 1, wherein said counter device is a
25 deincrementing counter and the initial values are adjustable.

6. A control device according to claim 1, wherein said counter device is an incrementing counter and the initial values are reset to zero upon introduction of a new wear part and the thresholds are individually set.

7. A control device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the initial values and thresholds for the individual wear parts are only set within predetermined tolerance ranges for maintenance.

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8. A control device according to claim 7, wherein said predetermined tolerance ranges for maintenance amount to about 30% through 100% of empirically determined and specified replacement values.

10 9. A method for monitoring wear parts of a printer or copier, comprising the following steps:

counting a number of printed sheets by said printer or copier with a counter device;
storing initial values and thresholds for individual wear parts of said printer or copier;
said counting step counting a number of the printed sheets in a direction toward the

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thresholds starting from the initial values;
outputting an alarm signal when a predefined threshold was crossed; and
individually setting at least one of the initial values and the thresholds for the individual wear parts.